

and the "special right" to have photographs on your desk, to have picnics in public places, and to care for your friends who are sick. He has worked for the "special right" to be free and equal and unafraid in America.

Tom has done all this by speaking, teaching, advocating, organizing, and writing. He has been a model for young people who care about progress, and he has been a reminder for older people that not all justice has yet been done. Tom is the kind of American who has made the Nation make the quantum leap from thinking about gay civil rights as a fringe issue to gay civil rights as a fundamental issue.

The Alliance for Justice has made these leaps before, leading the Nation closer to liberty and justice for all. I am pleased to join with the Alliance in honoring Tom Stoddard as a pioneer in that fight, and as a man whose work has changed politics for the better and forever.

TRIBUTE TO 2D LT. WAYLAND E. BENNETT, USMC

**HON. STEVE LARGENT**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 1995*

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to 2d Lt. Wayland E. Bennett, a Marine Corps pilot who was commissioned on a training mission during World War II, but was only recently brought back to this country for burial. The story of his return is a remarkable tale of friendship and dedication and deserving of special recognition.

Mr. Bennett was a young man of 18 when he left home to join the war effort in the South Pacific. In 1943 he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps and was sent to a small island 1,200 miles northeast of Australia to complete his training and join the elite Black Sheep Squadron of fighter pilots. On October 22, 1943 his Corsair crashed into a jungle area of the island too dense and too dangerous to risk a patrol. The wreckage and Mr. Bennett's remains were considered by the military to be unrecoverable.

But the story doesn't end there, thanks in large measure to the devotion of Mr. Robert Bowden of Texarkana, TX. He refused to let his memories of his childhood friend end with a plane crash in the jungle. In 1988, he began a friendship with Dr. Dan Bookout, and together the two men decided to search for the wreckage. Enlisting family, friends, and strangers alike, Mr. Bowden and Dr. Bookout began to raise money and to organize an expedition to the South Pacific to scour the jungle for the plane.

Dr. Bookout led his teams of volunteer searchers on four trips to Vanuatu, the first in 1988. He made friends with and enlisted natives to aid in the searches. The team endured many hardships and dangers in the jungles, each trip bringing them nearer to their objective as they eliminated improbable sites. Then in March and April of 1994, local villagers assisting in excavating a crash site told the CILHI team that they knew of another crash site and led the CILHI team to this site. From April 2 to 5, 1994, the CILHI team conducted an excavation of this newly revealed crash site and recovered the remains tentatively identi-

fied as being those of 2d Lt. Wayland E. Bennett. The board appointed to review the matter after all tests were completed acted with characteristic military thoroughness and on August 23, 1994, confirmed positive identification of the remains as being those of 2d Lt. Wayland E. Bennett, USMC. Lt. Bennett's nearest survivors were so informed, and on September 16, 1994, 2d Lt. Wayland E. Bennett's remains were interred in the family plot in Texarkana, TX. Dr. Bookout continued to act as the Bennett family representative until the interment.

I know I speak for all Members of Congress when I say the selflessness and dedication of Mr. Bowden and Dr. Bookout deserves recognition. I hope you will join me in extending best wishes to them, as well as to the families of Lieutenant Bennett. I am proud that their efforts led to his return.

CATHOLICS UNDER ATTACK IN BANJA LUKA

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 1995*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues the deteriorating conditions in the region of Banja Luka in northern Bosnia. It seems the latest atrocities committed by Bosnian Serb militants, who control the area, are directed at Catholic Church leaders and Catholic believers, who are primarily Croats. These attacks come on the heels of Croatia's efforts to regain control over some of its territory occupied by the Croatian Serb militants since 1991. Around 40,000 Croats still live in northern Bosnia despite significant ethnic cleansing by the Serbs. An estimated 50,000 Croats and hundreds of thousands of Moslems have been expelled from this region alone during the past 3 years.

In one recent incident in Banja Luka, a priest and nun were reportedly doused with gasoline and set on fire in the parish rectory as militants blew up the parish church building next door. This tragic act of barbarity is part of a larger campaign directed against the Catholic community in the diocese of Banja Luka. On May 4, militants forcibly expelled nuns from two convents in the region. Since that time, a total of five churches and one monastery have been destroyed. In all, since the beginning of the war, 40 churches in the diocese have been completely destroyed and another 25 have sustained heavy damage.

The bishop of Banja Luka, Franjo Komarcia, has repeatedly called upon the Bosnian Serb leadership to stop the attacks. These pleas have fallen on deaf ears. Bishop Komarcia, in an open appeal, described the current situation in his diocese: "Fear and panic, for their lives, has overcome the Catholics remaining in the area because they are totally unprotected from the local and newly arrived Serbian extremists. They are virtually [sic] hostages and are faced with the real threat of immediate catastrophe or widespread banishment." Bishop Komarcia began a hunger strike recently to draw attention to the gravity of the situation faced by the Catholic community in Banja Luka. Late last week, an urgent appeal was sent to the head of the Serbian Orthodox Church urging his intervention to ensure the

protection of Catholics in the Serb stronghold. The senseless attacks in Banja Luka have been roundly condemned by Pope John Paul II.

Mr. Speaker, these tragic developments are but the latest examples of the campaign of death and destruction directed against innocent civilians by the Bosnian Serb militants in Banja Luka and elsewhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM K. WATERS

**HON. JACK REED**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 1995*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a gentleman who has dedicated his life to one of our Nation's most honorable and arduous professions: teaching. Mr. William K. Waters has been a social studies teacher at Park View Junior High School in Cranston, RI, for his entire 31 year tenure with the Cranston public school system. At the end of this school year, Mr. Waters will retire after his many years of teaching.

Mr. Waters first went to Park View as a student teacher while studying at Rhode Island College in 1963. The following year, he returned to Park View as a full-time social studies teacher. He quickly became immersed in this dynamic school, and soon his duties extended far beyond the classroom.

Mr. Waters has worked tirelessly with students on Park View's award winning yearbook for over 20 years. As the ninth grade class advisor for 28 years, Mr. Waters' encouragement and guidance instilled qualities of responsibility and leadership. However, Mr. Waters' legacy to Park View will be most remembered as advisor to the student council, a position he has held for 29 years.

Park View's student council has long been the envy of junior high schools throughout Rhode Island. The council's many longstanding traditions and services have benefited students, teachers, and the community. Students chosen by their peers to represent their class on the student council have managed school stores, a student handbook, all-school dances, the ninth grade dance, and fundraisers. Overseen by the always attentive and dedicated Mr. Waters, these were not merely student activities, they fostered a cooperative and active student body within the Park View community.

And for the students fortunate enough to serve on the council, it served as a life-long lesson. Someone believed that at their age they could be trusted with money, to carry out responsibilities, and to deliver results. Leadership and commitment are not easily learned, but Mr. Waters not only encouraged these, he expected them.

The student council's organizational skills and resources also benefited the local community. The Meeting Street Center, the Heart Association, the R.I. Lung Association, and Rhode Island's senior citizens have all come to recognize that Park View is not just another junior high school. At the same time, students were able to learn about life beyond the confines of classes, teachers, and friends.

Of course, none of this would have been possible had someone not taken on the enormous responsibility of going beyond the afternoon school bell. Junior high school teachers